



LP News



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NH Rep. Caleb Dyer defects from GOP to LP

At a press conference on Feb. 9, Rep. Caleb Dyer, who was elected to the New Hampshire legislature as a Republican, announced his switch to the Libertarian Party.

Dyer was one of 11 candidates out of 20 who won at-large seats in the Hillsborough 37 District. Because he was elected in Nov. 2016, he will serve most of his two-year term as a Libertarian.

Dyer's switch to the LP was motivated in part by its achieving official party status in New Hampshire in 2016 for the first time in twenty years, and with it, access to the ballot.

"This fact should be seen as a warning to members of the majority that their constituency is slowly but surely growing discontent[ed] with increasingly partisan representation," Dyer said. "For elected Republicans like myself who have libertarian leanings, this is truly a golden op-

"[Libertarian ballot access] is truly a golden opportunity to establish ourselves as a viable alternative [to the Republican Party] and become advocates for principled, classically liberal policy."

—Rep. Caleb Dyer (L-N.H.)

portunity to establish ourselves as a viable alternative to this representation and become advocates for principled, classically liberal policy."

Dyer has stated that he:

- supports tax credits or refunds for parents who choose to home-school



Rep. Caleb Dyer announcing his switch to the Libertarian Party, flanked by LPNH officers Darryl Perry (chair) and Jillette Jarvis (secretary)

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Libertarian Party wins court case against FEC and CPD

by Carla Howell

In a victory for presidential debates' being more open, a U.S. District Court ruled on Feb. 1 against the FEC in the case *Level the Playing Field et al v. Federal Election Commission*. The lawsuit, in which the Libertarian Party is a co-plaintiff, aims to make more fair the debate criteria set by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD).

As reported in the Feb. 2017 issue of *LP News*, Judge Tanya Chutkan had rebuked the FEC for its testimony in January during oral argument in the case. The FEC had attempted to justify its dismissal of a complaint issued by Level the Playing Field (LPF) against the CPD, ignoring mounds of evidence presented by LPF's lead attorney, Alexandra Shapiro.

Consistent with her comments in court, Chutkan's order states that the FEC acted "arbitrarily, capriciously, and contrary to law," with respect to its conclusion that the polling criterion set by the CPD for inclusion in the 2016 presiden-

The FEC acted "arbitrarily, capriciously, and contrary to law" with respect to its conclusion that the polling criterion set by the CPD for inclusion in the 2016 presidential debates was objective.

tial debates was objective.

The order directed the FEC to reconsider the plaintiffs' allegations against the CPD within 30 days, and to reconsider LPF's request for a rule-making within 60 days.

Later that week, the FEC asked Judge Chutkan to reconsider her order, and asked for more time to respond.

Four days later, the judge granted the FEC an additional 30 days. She noted in her response that the FEC had failed

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L-R: Co-chairmen Mike McCurry and Frankahrenkopf of the Commission on Presidential Debates

CHAIR'S Corner

The health of our freedoms

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

Many of you may know that our family has a used car dealership in Phoenix. As a small-business owner, I can tell you that things like health insurance are not just theoretical issues, but day-to-day issues for how we run our business.

Arizona is a tough place to buy health insurance as a small business. When you visit the SHOP Marketplace (the Affordable Care Act's provision for small businesses to buy health insurance for their employees), you can choose which company you would like, to provide your health insurance coverage.

My choices were: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and...nothing else. Every other insurance company had pulled out of the Arizona marketplace for small businesses.

After "choosing" Blue Cross and setting up a plan where our company would pay 50 percent of the premiums for our employees who wanted to sign up, we had our health insurance. The insurance premium for me, my wife, and our three children comes to about \$1,400 per month—\$300 more than the mortgage on our house. And it still bears a \$2,000 individual deductible before the insurance starts covering things. That's the "silver" plan, the middle option under the Affordable Care Act.

Clearly, this system of requiring individuals to buy terrible health insurance, or pay a penalty to the government if we are unable or unwilling to support it, is unsustainable.

It's hard to imagine a plan worse than the Affordable Care Act, but the Republicans, with their plan for "replacement," have managed to create one. It requires that you pay the penalty for noncoverage directly to the insurance companies, rather than to the IRS. At least that "corporate welfare" is more aboveboard under the Republican plan.

The Democrats will complain and push back against the Republicans' altering how the Affordable Care Act

works, because it was Obama's signature achievement as president. The Republicans will make superficial changes to how it works, but keep most of the requirements of the law that are already in place.

Only the Libertarian Party supports getting to the root of the problem. We recognize that this overly regulated market for health insurance forces you to buy coverage you don't need or don't want. We understand that a system that offers you benefits without requiring that providers compete will be unsustainable.

Many people were attracted to the Gary Johnson for President campaign because he brought his experience as a two-term governor to the issues while singing the virtues of a free market in medicine. "We would have Stitches R Us," he chimed, illustrating how we can Uberize medicine by getting the government out of the way.

When neither of the dominant parties is willing to acknowledge how broken our health insurance system is, the Libertarian Party has the opportunity to take up the mantle of being the adults in the room—the ones who understand policy and its consequences, and who can explain how a Libertarian solution would work better.

These kinds of opportunities are going to present themselves more and more often as we approach the midterm elections in 2018. We need to make sure the Libertarian Party has clear, sensible, and articulate positions, to show people that we understand their difficulties and have real solutions.

Yours in liberty,
Nicholas J. Sarwark



Nicholas Sarwark

DONOR Appreciation

One anonymous individual became
a Beacon of Liberty contributor.

The following individuals became Lifetime Founder contributors:

David Pratt Demarest	John Marsh	Tia Smith
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The Libertarian Party (LP) and its state affiliates work to advance the right of individuals to be free, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal rights of others. The party runs candidates for public office, elects Libertarians, supports and opposes ballot measures, lobbies, and takes positions on public policy aimed at removing, reducing, and nullifying government laws, regulations, prohibitions, taxes, spending, debt, and foreign interventions.

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Rohrman wins LP nomination for New Jersey governor

In front of a sold-out LP state convention held at Rutgers University in March, the New Jersey Libertarian Party nominated U.S. Marines veteran Peter Rohrman for governor. The party nominated Karese Laguerre for lieutenant governor.

Rohrman's proposes school choice, legalizing marijuana, and ending corporate welfare. He aims to eliminate most forms of taxation within the state, and give citizens the option of defunding government programs they dislike.

Rohrman first gained attention with strong campaigns in 2015 and 2016 for Bergen County freeholder. New Jersey has 21 counties, each of which is governed by a board of freeholders. Bergen is part of the New York City metropolitan area.

"I believe in maximizing personal freedom," he said. "I cherish the Constitution and every one of the rights afforded to us in the Bill of Rights."

Rohrman advocates for competition in



Peter Rohrman, Libertarian candidate for governor of New Jersey

schools. He aims to eliminate "last in, first out" employment that forces schools to fire outstanding new teachers first, and to expand school choice, for greater competition and parental choice.

He calls for eliminating the state's gas tax and cutting government spending.

This includes reforming prevailing-wage laws to make public services competitive again, and abolishing "double-dipping," whereby government employees can draw two pensions at a time, or both a salary and a pension.

"There's no reason a project should cost more simply because taxpayers are footing the bill," he said. "The people of New Jersey are not an ATM for powerful special interests."

On the right to self-defense, Rohrman says, "I'm not interested in working with legislators on this issue. I'll use mass pardon powers to create a de facto constitutional carry state and to shed the many restrictive gun laws we have on the books."

Rohrman opposes the "war on drugs." As a first step in ending this "senseless failure of a jobs program," he will take advantage of the national trend to legalize cannabis. He said, "If legislators don't act quickly, I'll take the initiative, and use ex-

Rohrman: "I'll use mass pardon powers to create a de facto constitutional carry state and to shed the many restrictive gun laws we have on the books."

ecutive authority to end the war on people who use marijuana. Incarceration for possession of a plant is beyond cruel and unusual."

"The governorship of New Jersey is one of the most powerful in the union," Rohrman said. "If elected, we'll use that power to reverse governmental tyranny that the state is so famous for. Mass pardons are on the way!" •

Campaign website: Pete4NJ.com

Campaign Facebook page: [Facebook.com/RohrmanForGovernor](https://www.facebook.com/RohrmanForGovernor)

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Plaques recognizing our top donors are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee building in Alexandria, Va. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you'd just like to help pay off the mortgage, mail in your donation or visit LP.org.

Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

Wicks running in U.S. House special election to tackle government debt

by Greta Langhenry

At a state convention on March 11, the Montana LP nominated Mark Wicks to run in the May 25 special election for the U.S. House seat vacated by former Republican Congressman Ryan Zinke, who was confirmed as Secretary of the Interior.

Wicks's opponents are Republican Greg Gianforte, who made an unsuccessful bid for governor last fall, and Democrat Rob Quist.

A local Montana news channel, KULR8, reported, "Voter turnout is expected to be lower than ever before, making the results of the election highly unpredictable."

Wicks, a cattle rancher, writer, and father of four from Inverness, is especially concerned with the national debt.

"My biggest goal," he says, "is to work towards balancing the budget, and then start paying down the debt. We spend \$14,000 per second just paying the interest on the debt!"

"Nobody is saying 'no,'" he continues. "They [major party politicians] get a dollar and spend it twice. There needs to be somebody who can stand up without strings attached and say what needs to be said."

He also aims to phase out the Department of Education to "turn our teachers loose and let them teach without the federal government" on their backs, reduce

federal regulations "so we can run a business without wondering what law we are breaking," and protect citizens' privacy and personal information by "ending all unconstitutional spying and data collection without search warrants."

Wicks says he knows "it's an uphill battle. [But] I can see where I have a lot of advantages. My party is not fighting with anybody. The other parties are fighting back and forth."

Noting that his home state of Montana elected Jeanette Rankin in 1916, the first woman to ever hold national office in the United States, Wicks sees the potential for Montanans to "break that glass ceiling [again] and send the first Libertarian to Washington."

Wicks has drawn the attention of state, local, and even national press, with coverage of his candidacy running in the *Washington Times*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Helena Independent Record*, KRTV, and other statewide media. •

Campaign Facebook page:

[Facebook.com/Mark-Wicks-1070955643027894](https://www.facebook.com/Mark-Wicks-1070955643027894)



Mark Wicks, Libertarian candidate for U.S. House (Montana)

Quiz, 2016 presidential campaign lead to Hurst's run for Virginia Delegate

by Greta Langhenry

Terry Hurst, a veteran navy journalist, is running for the Virginia House of Delegates in District 89, a seat that Democrats have held since the Civil War. Republicans rarely bother to run in the district, which covers the city of Norfolk.

Last year, during the presidential election cycle, Hurst started to investigate the field of candidates. Disappointed with what he found from the two old parties, he thought back to a conversation he had had nearly a decade ago.

"It was 2007 or 2008. Obama was running for the first time. A family friend and I were at work when he asked me, 'What do you believe in? Where do you stand?' remembers Hurst. 'So I told him.'"

The man listened carefully, and at the end of their discussion told Hurst, "You're



Terry Hurst, Libertarian candidate for Virginia state delegate, District 89

a Libertarian, and you don't even know it."

Unfamiliar with the Libertarian Party, Hurst was curious when his friend gave him a copy of the World's Smallest Political Quiz, "and sure enough, there I was, right smack-dab in the middle of the Libertarian quadrant," he says.

Hurst didn't think about the quiz again, or the Libertarians, until the 2016 presidential election ramped up.

"I thought back to that discussion," he recalls.

He took to the Internet to do some research. "I googled 'Libertarian,'" he says, and wound up on a page detailing Gary Johnson's and Bill Weld's Libertarian campaign. "I read their platform, and I agreed with so much of it," he says, that he "wanted to know more."

So he went to the LP's website and

printed out the official party platform. "I had two highlighters: a pink one for what I didn't agree with 100 percent, and a yellow one for what I did," explains Hurst. By the end of the platform, he had uncapped the pink highlighter only once.

"That's when I decided to support the Libertarians in the election, and [soon after that] when I saw a Facebook ad for a Gary Johnson money bomb, I donated \$15."

He decided that if he was going to donate his hard-earned money to a political candidate, he "should be a card-carrying member" of his party.

He says he joined the Virginia Libertarian Party and the national LP the same day. Since then, he has attended fairs and conventions, meetings and panels.

"Have you been to the national head-

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Young Libertarian Party leaders, Part 1

by Laura Ann Valle

Just talk to a few of the emerging youth leaders in the Libertarian movement, and you will find some of the most energetic, passionate, and talented young people of their generation. And they are helping to grow the Libertarian Party from the grass roots, up. Here's a sampling.

Kody Fairfield

Since the 2016 election season, 26-year-old Kody Fairfield has remained active with the LP affiliate in Orange County, Calif. Last summer, he helped to nearly triple the group's meeting attendance and has revamped its social media presence.

A native of Yorbalinda, a small community east of Anaheim and south of Los Angeles, Fairfield said that he was appalled to discover that his congressional representative, Republican incumbent Ed Royce, has had no challengers in the primaries since his election in 1993. This is one of the reasons Fairfield got more involved in politics.

When he isn't playing baseball or managing a local cross-fit facility, he spends his free time writing articles for the Libertarian Republic, where he serves as Editor in Chief. He was formerly a member of the Republican Liberty Caucus and has been working to bring more of his fellow disaffected Republicans over to the LP.

Grant Deltz

At age 17, Texas Libertarian Grant Deltz seized the opportunity to join the Ohio delegation at the 2016 Libertarian Nominating Convention when they needed additional members. After the excitement in Orlando, he became Digital Events intern for the Johnson-Weld campaign.

Prior to that, he was a campaign coordinator for Aus-

tin Petersen in Texas and Tennessee. Deltz has been instrumental in helping to build support for LP Texas Lobby Day, planned for March 24. He has been serving as the LP Texas political director since Dec. 2016.

He continues to write for Libertarian publications, serving as an associate editor for both the Libertarian Republic and Liberty Viral. Grant does all this while completing his senior year in high school and attending University Interscholastic League (UIL) competitions in Current Issues and Events. He plans to attend Texas Tech University in the fall, majoring in Political Science.

Matthew Geiger

One wonders when it is that 15-year-old Matthew Geiger, a sophomore at South Carroll High School—surely one of the youngest and most passionate members of the LP—finds time to sleep.

Geiger founded the Carroll County Libertarian Committee (CCLC) in July 2016 and is currently the chairman, supporting Libertarians running for local, county, and statewide office. Under his leadership, the committee has seen steady growth in attendance and membership. He also founded the Libertarian Youth Caucus at both the state level and at his high school. The latter has more than 35 student members and has raised more than \$1,000 in online donations in just one month.

Geiger used his understanding of social media marketing and algorithms to increase the engagement and reach of the CCLC's Facebook page and the national LP's Instagram page. He is also the social media coordinator at the Stonegait Institute and assists with running its podcasts and live-stream videos.

Most recently, Geiger has been helping Michael Won-



Matthew Geiger, chairman of the Carol County Libertarian Party

sala, a man from his hometown of Mount Airy, who has been fighting the town council for permission to run his firearms restoration business out of his home. There have been over 10,000 views of his Facebook live story covering a March 6 hearing, where Geiger spoke as the CCLC chair. The town council again voted to deny Wonsala a business permit, but he is planning to appeal.

Matthew's ability to speak eloquently about freedom and to garner attention and support is admirable and inspiring to many. On top of all this, he plays basketball and football, and volunteers in the summer as a swim coach for local children. •

Backus wins seat on city council; helps recruit Sen. Ebke to LP

by Greta Langhenry

When Ben Backus first ran for city council in Gering, Nebraska in 2012, he lost by just 40 votes.

Disappointed but undeterred, he ran for Nebraska Secretary of State in 2014. He lost to the Republican incumbent, John A. Gale, but still managed to garner an impressive 24.8 percent of the statewide vote.

Backus says he “mainly got into running for office to help the Libertarian Party with ballot access efforts,” but then saw that being in the race offered a “good way to give the Libertarian platform an audience.”

In 2016, he ran again for city council. This time, he won.

His victory last year was admittedly “anticlimactic” (his opponent dropped out of the race before Election Day), but the win was still sweet for this Libertarian father of two.

Now serving as one of two representatives from Ward 3 on the Gering City Council, he attends biweekly meetings.

When it comes to government regulation, Backus

wants to “keep it to the basics.”

“Roads, utilities, and safety,” are what the people are concerned about, he explains. “People want to be able to get from home to work and back again; they want the water to be clean and their toilets to work; and they want to feel safe in their neighborhoods. If we can take care of those three things, businesses and private individuals will take care of the rest.”

He admits he follows his state legislature obsessively. Last year, he noticed something unusual: State Sen. Laura Ebke.

Nebraska has a nonpartisan legislature, but the political affiliation of candidates and those in office are often

“People want [roads], water to be clean... and to feel safe in their neighborhoods. If we can take care of the those things, businesses and private individuals will take care of the rest.” —Ben Backus

widely known. Sen. Ebke was a registered Republican voter, but participated in many “libertarian” circles. She helped to start the Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC) in Nebraska, and even serves as its chair.

But, as Ebke puts it, “the letter behind someone’s name doesn’t really matter; you have to look at what people really say and do.”

Backus had looked at what Ebke had said during her time in the legislature, and even more important, he knew what her voting record looked like.



Ben Backus, Gering City, Nebraska Councilmember

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Dyer defects to LP

...continued from page 1

- or send their children to alternative schools;
- seeks to cut government spending, as well as limit tax revenues, to provide for only essential services;
- supports a woman’s right to choose and opposes public funding for abortion clinics;
- supports the decriminalization of cannabis with the eventual goal of legalization without taxation; and
- favors any way that the state can resist federal regulation, oversight, or control.

“Caleb Dyer is not a Libertarian in name only,” said LNC Vice Chair, Arvin Vohra, who attended the press conference. “This is a real, hard-core voluntarist.”

“Caleb Dyer is not a Libertarian in name only,” said LNC Vice Chair, Arvin Vohra, who attended the press conference. “This is a real, hard-core voluntarist.”

Vohra notes that Dyer will be encouraging other Libertarians to run for office.

Vohra asks all Libertarians to thank Caleb Dyer for his bravery in making the switch by following his example and declaring their candidacy for public office.

“If you don’t get elected, you’ll help by putting Libertarian ideas out there.”

At the age of 20, Dyer is the youngest member of the New Hampshire legislature. •

AN INTERVIEW WITH REP. CALEB DYER

LP News: What do you see as the biggest opportunity for you to help move government policy in a Libertarian direction?

Dyer: I think that will be through my assignment to the House Environment and Agriculture Committee. While this committee doesn’t receive very many bills, there are several bills which have very big implications for the state. New Hampshire farmers have been crippled by federal regulatory policy which favors much larger farming operations. Ultimately, these policies act as barriers to entry for small, local, family farms in our state, and we can do some work to mitigate the effects of these regulations. One such avenue that will save many farms in New Hampshire’s north country is the cultivation of industrial hemp. In the Environment and Agriculture Committee, H.B. 151, relative to decriminalization of industrial hemp, made it out of committee with an 18–0 unanimous Ought to Pass recommendation and is now in the senate.

LP News: Do you work with other N.H. groups or parties, or individuals therein, on shared goals?

Dyer: So far I have found allies mostly in the House Republican Caucus, simply because I am formerly a member of this caucus and already have strong relationships with many of its libertarian-leaning members. However, I have also come to find Rep. William Pearson (D–Keene) to be a strong ally in the fight to loosen ballot-access laws. In addition, I plan to work with Amanda Bouldin (D–Manchester) and Elizabeth Edwards-Appell (D–Manchester) on the decriminalization of prostitution, in the second year of the session.

LP News: Do you plan to help recruit Libertarians to run for office in N.H., or to campaign on their behalf?

Dyer: I will be extremely active in recruiting Libertarian candidates across the state. My goal is to run a full slate of Libertarian candidates in my home district of Hillsborough 37. Additionally, I will be very active in promoting the campaigns of our candidates for federal offices, such as Justin O’Donnell, and our likely gubernatorial candidate, Jillette Jarvis.

LP News: Do you plan to run for re-election when your term is up?

Dyer: Absolutely! When I switched parties, I knew that my re-election campaign was going to be an uphill battle, but it is nothing I am not prepared for. This next

time around, I’m going to have to be even more aggressive reaching my constituents than I was last cycle. I hope to be the first candidate in over two decades to win re-election as a Libertarian.

LP News: Which, if any, of the 15 pledges that Libertarian candidates for state office made in 2016 would you be willing to make as an elected official?

Dyer: I will absolutely take any and all relevant pledges in my state. Obviously we have neither an income tax nor a sales tax in New Hampshire, so I can’t exactly fight to eliminate them, but I’ll certainly resist them as best I can. I’m going to have to read the entirety of each pledge before I decide which ones I will take as a candidate for re-election. •

“New Hampshire farmers have been crippled by federal regulatory policy which favors much larger farming operations. Ultimately, these policies act as barriers to entry for small, local, family farms.”

Six Libertarians on the ballot in McLean County, Illinois

by Greta Langhenry

Bennett Morris, chair of the McLean County LP in central Illinois, had wanted more Libertarian candidates to run for office. This spring, he got what he wanted.

Three Libertarian candidates, Christopher McDermott, Alex Nigro, and Steve Suess, are all running for Normal Township Board of Trustees. They're on the ballot along with eight other candidates from the two major parties, all vying to fill the four seats on this partisan board.

"Historically, the Republicans run unopposed almost all of the time," Morris beams. "This time, we put a slate together, and then the Democrats did, too, so we finally have a contested race."

Three other Libertarians are running in nonpartisan races, including Morris, who is seeking a six-year term as a trustee to the Heartland Community College board (district 540).

Charles Sila is running to retain his spot for a six-year term as a trustee to the Normal Public Library board. Sol Roberts-Lieb is running for school board.

"The partisan race is the big one," he explains. "If one of our candidates can get 5 percent of the vote in that one, we will be considered an 'established party' in Normal Township."

This classification is especially significant, he notes, be-

"We have so many levels of government, all of which can raise your taxes—and that's exactly what most of them are doing."

The number one objection Morris hears from Libertarians hesitant to run for office is "I don't know enough about the township." He tells them, "I would rather have someone in office who makes logical, reasonable decisions, than someone who applauds taxation and enjoys spending other people's money."

cause "in four years, we could run a full slate of LP candidates for Normal Township trustees, clerk, highway commissioner, tax assessor, and supervisor with next to no [petition] signatures required. We'd just have to get the same small numbers the Republicans and the Democrats have to get."

Morris is dedicated to securing ballot access for Libertarians, which is desperately needed in Illinois.

The state has more levels of government than any in the country: state level offices, county offices, city offices, townships, towns, school board districts, water districts, park districts, fire protection districts, and more.

"We have so many levels of government, all of which can raise your taxes—and that's exactly what most of them are doing," says Morris. "Most residents have no idea that, in Illinois, the Community College Board of Trustees can raise your property taxes."

In a state that's "going bankrupt while maintaining the



Bennett Morris, chair of the McLean County LP

third-highest property taxes in the country," Morris is hoping that Libertarian principles will have the chance to flourish, and make a difference for the people who live there.

"Once people start to see Libertarians on the ballot, hopefully they'll be more comfortable with the idea of libertarian principles," he explains. "Or at least they'll look into the party."

Morris says the number one objection he hears from Libertarians who are hesitant to run for office is: "I don't know enough about the township."

In response he tells them, "I would rather have someone in office who makes logical, reasonable decisions than someone who applauds taxation and enjoys spending other people's money." •

LP Hawaii chair fights to decrim. adult prostitution

Tracy Ryan, chair of the Hawaii LP, has been working for years to repeal the state's laws against prostitution. She drafted House Bill 1533 to decriminalize adult consensual prostitution, and has had it introduced into the ongoing session of Hawaii's legislature.

Ryan has secured the backing of a coalition of local advocates, including the Hawaii Amnesty International chapter.

Ryan has secured the backing of a coalition of local advocates, including the Hawaii Amnesty International chapter, gay rights leaders, local sex workers, and Kimberlee Cline of the Sex Workers' Outreach Project. Cline went to Hawaii for ten days to educate the public and the legislature, and to rally support.

House Speaker Joe Souki introduced the bill as a "courtesy," although he neither

supports nor opposes it.

Under the bill, people who manage adult consensual sex workers without abusing them would be allowed to work legally. Those who manage minors or who abuse sex workers would remain subject to felonies.

H.B. 1533 would retain the legal violation for minors who, themselves, do sex work. They would remain under the jurisdiction of the Family Court.

The bill is getting publicity. Ryan has been interviewed by all the major TV stations in Honolulu, including KITV, Hawaii News Now, and KHON 2 TV.

Ryan told KITV, "Say you're a prostitute and you have what's called a 'bad date'... Someone attacks you...Who are you

"[Prostitutes] should have the same rights to their health and safety protection as anybody else."



LP Hawaii Chair Tracy Ryan being interviewed on KHON 2 TV.

going to tell? You can't go to the police. [Prostitutes] should have the same rights to their health and safety protection as anybody else."

Honolulu City Prosecutor Keith Kaneshiro has objections to the bill. Ryan wants to discuss it with him and work through objections. She requested a meeting with him, and at press time is waiting for his office to schedule it.

Most of the bill's mounting opposition is coming from what Ryan describes as "moralists, either the traditional religious type or radical feminists."

...continued on page 16

Want to hear what
Libertarians running for
office promise to do if elected?

Tune in to the LP podcast:



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show/2300/libertarians
-working-for-you](http://www.VoiceAmerica.com/show/2300/libertarians-working-for-you)

**Tuesdays
8 P.M. ET**

Libertarians serving on Alaska state commission

by Carla Howell

Libertarians Rob Clift and Adam Schwemley are expected to be confirmed this spring to serve on the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC). They are among only a handful of Libertarians who will have served in a statewide office in the party's history.

Alaska Libertarians won two seats on the commission, which regulates campaigning and lobbying activities, because of the outcome of the 2014 governor's race. Libertarian Carolyn "Care" Clift and her running mate Andrew C. Lee placed third in the race, with 3.2 percent of the vote, which also won party status for the Alaska LP.



Adam Schwemley, Libertarian nominee for Alaska Public Offices Commission

State law stipulates that the five-member APOC include two members of each of the two parties that win the most votes in the last race for governor. An independent ticket, consisting of an odd match-up of a former Democrat and a former Republican, won the gubernatorial race. But because only candidates of political parties may quali-

fy for the APOC appointments, the second- and third-place winners—Republicans and Libertarians—each qualified their parties for two seats on the commission.

Schwemley: "I'm looking forward to being one of the few Libertarians serving in a statewide capacity actively promoting libertarian ideals."

"I'm looking forward to serving Alaska as a Libertarian, as well as being one of the few serving in a statewide capacity who will be actively promoting libertarian ideals," said Schwemley. "Libertarians, in my experience, have been big on government transparency, and I'm excited to be appointed to a position that oversees the finances of elected officials and lobbyists."

In April 2015, Mark Fish was the first Libertarian appointed to the APOC after the 2014 election. After serving for two years, he resigned his post, which left it open for another Libertarian to fill. Clift will serve out the remaining three years of Fish's term. Schwemley will serve a full five-year term.

"We have the opportunity to put our ideas on the table, and to be seen by our opposition as equal players who are rational and capable," said Clift.

As he awaited confirmation by the legislature, Clift attended an APOC meeting on Feb. 22. He was encouraged

by the conduct of his fellow commission members.

"From what I've seen, they're interested in being fair," he said. "They seem to be acting for the benefit of the public, rather than their parties."

Clift notes that their hands are tied by the statute governing campaigning and lobbying, but that they have broad latitude in hearing cases that come before the commission. Any decisions they make will stand, unless they're appealed in court.

The commission also issues advisory opinions on how to interpret the statute, and has opportunities to suggest legislation.

"I guarantee that if I have an opportunity to push some libertarian legislation, I'm going to take it," Clift said. •

Clift: "I guarantee that if I have an opportunity to push some libertarian legislation, I'm going to take it."



Rob Clift, Libertarian nominee for Alaska Public Offices Commission

Backus wins seat

...continued from page 5

"She wasn't just libertarian-leaning. She was a libertarian," Backus recalls.

So Backus e-mailed Ebke several times. He saw which bills she had introduced, and even offered to aid her with her efforts to call for a Convention of States. He helped to set up a meeting in his area for constituents interested in her efforts, and "it went well," he said.

But their collaboration didn't stop there.

The Libertarian Party of Nebraska invited Sen. Ebke to speak at their state convention, even though she was still a registered Republican. Ebke accepted. She admits she "wasn't too nervous" to speak at the convention, since she already knew many of the people who would be there, through her work with the RLC. "It was nice to talk about liberty openly," she said.

Already increasingly unhappy with the direction the GOP was heading in the presidential primaries, and disturbed by "a series of things" on the state and national level, as she puts it, Ebke had been considering switching her party affiliation for some time.

At the convention, Backus brought up the subject. "Ben planted a seed," Ebke said, and the invitation and "warm welcome" of the Nebraska LP went a long way.

"Ben planted a seed," Ebke said, and the invitation and "warm welcome" of the Nebraska LP went a long way.

Both Backus and Ebke were fully aware of the danger to her chances of re-election a party switch could pose, and "Ben said to me, 'I know you might not want to [switch parties] for political reasons, but we would welcome you,'" remembers Ebke.

Now, Nebraska State Sen. Laura Ebke is a Libertarian.

Last May, six weeks after addressing the LP state convention, she formally capitalized the "L."

When asked whether he thought there were other Republicans who might be ready to make the switch, Backus replied quickly, "I don't know. There aren't too many Laura Ebkes." •

Hurst for Va. Delegate

...continued from page 4

quarters?" he asks this reporter, the excitement in his voice palpable.

I told him I haven't. "Oh, you should!" he exclaims, telling me another story, this one about the night he attended a party there and met many of the national LP staff members, including Political Director Carla Howell. "We played 'Who's Driving,'" he says. "It was great!"

"We have to help the public understand who we are in a moment, or we lose them."

"We have to help the public understand who we are in a moment, or we lose them," he explains, describing the usefulness of the game Howell played with him.

Increasing government transparency in Norfolk is a top priority for Hurst, who also wants to work toward ending the drug war and restoring the civil rights of non-violent felons.

"Gary Johnson's and Bill Weld's cam-

paign made me realize that there are a lot of Americans that think like I do. Their campaign woke me up."

He continues, "I started to think, 'How many others are out there that are ready to wake up?' And then [Johnson] got over 4 million votes. The Libertarians are not the 'lunatic fringe' anymore."

Undaunted by the woman in his district who told him he "probably" had her vote, though she wished he were a Democrat so that he'd "have a chance to win," Hurst is moving, full steam ahead, toward the November election.

"I know there are more people like me out there [who don't know they're libertarians yet]."

"I know there are more people like me out there [who don't know they're libertarians yet]," says Hurst. His goal is to help the Libertarian Party reach them. •

Campaign website: TerryHurst.com

Campaign Facebook page: [Facebook.com/ElectTerryHurst](https://www.facebook.com/ElectTerryHurst)



LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

T 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Libertarian,

The Libertarian Party's revenue jumped from \$1.1 million in 2015 to \$2.6 million in 2016, thanks to donors like you. That's remarkable growth, but it's our 595 candidates we got onto the ballot who ran for president, congress, state and local offices, that got the party the publicity we need to impact public policy.

Because the Libertarian Party collected enough signatures to get our ticket for president on the ballot in all 50 states, we attracted two former governors, Gary Johnson and Bill Weld, and the media took us seriously. We got tons of free publicity on TV, the radio, in print, and the Internet. That media would have cost tens, if not hundreds of millions of dollars, if we had paid for that publicity with advertising.

I want to thank our 595 candidates for taking time away from their families to run for office. I especially want to thank Gary Johnson and his team, some of whom worked for five years leading up to the 2016 election.

I want to thank our national, state, and county affiliate leadership, and the thousands of other volunteers who spent countless hours working for the Libertarian Party and its candidates in 2016.

I want to thank our incredibly productive staff. Twelve individuals serving 50 state parties, 595 candidates, 20,406 members, maintaining our websites and speaking to the national press. We do all of that while trying to accommodate the differences of opinions our Libertarians have on how radical or mainstream our tone should be.

I want to thank you for being a Libertarian. And I want to thank you again for making our work possible by donating to the Libertarian Party.

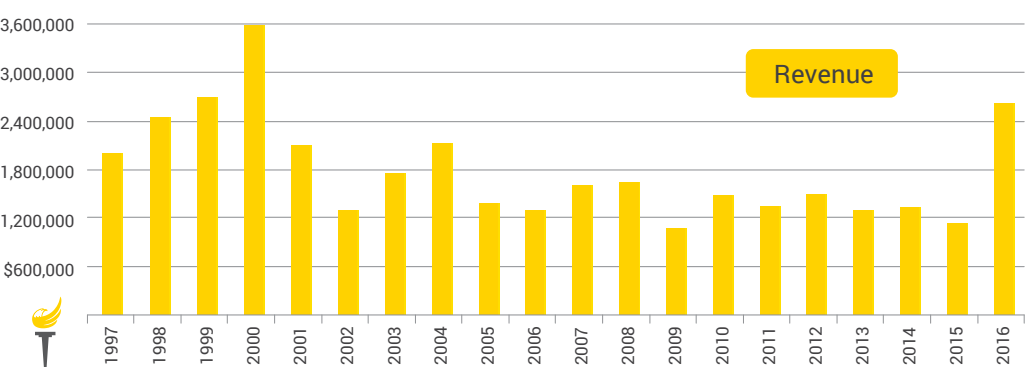
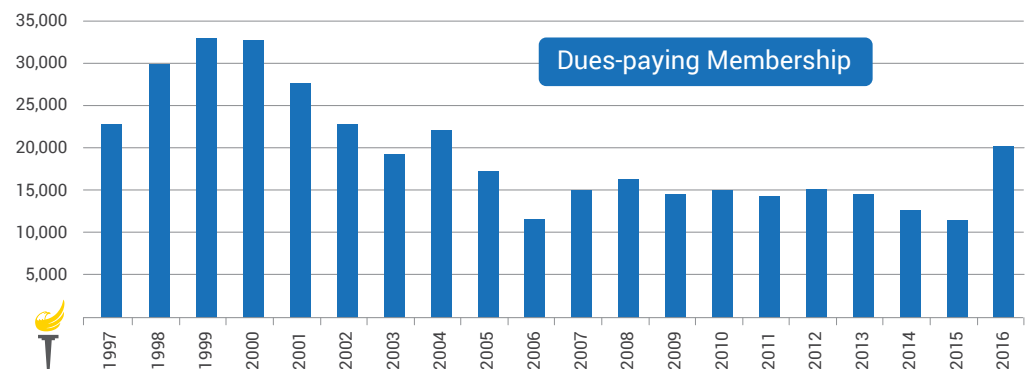
Simply calling yourself a Libertarian is a bold statement. Being a Libertarian shows courage and leadership—the kind of leadership America needs.

The Libertarian Party stands for free markets, civil liberties, and peace. Our work is important. We don't win every battle, but we always help to change minds and work to move policy toward liberty.

We have a lot to be proud of and will continue to build and take this party to new heights.

Wes Benedict
Executive Director

Wes Benedict



Branding and LP Store



In 2015, the LNC decided to adopt a new logo, with new colors and new branding. Consistent and polished branding is an essential part of building our party and our outreach both internally and externally. Over the past year, staff has been rolling out all sorts of new items, including shirts, bumper stickers, brochures, rack cards, lapel stickers, and yard signs. Some of these were broadly "Libertarian" and others specifically promoted our presidential nominee.

Demand was high, and LP Store (LPStore.org) did booming business in 2016. We upgraded the LP Store website, produced new materials, and used volunteers and temporary staff to fill orders. Branding and promotional revenue reached \$316,269 in 2016, which was ten times higher than in any year from 2010 through 2015. •



2016 Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
 Total Assets	421,811	454,149	290,870	445,746	1,173,452	1,174,064	1,294,270
 Total Liabilities	79,087	42,998	37,515	48,988	573,387	565,754	417,633
Total Net Assets	342,724	411,151	253,355	396,758	600,065	608,310	876,637

Revenue & Expenses

Support and Revenue	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Membership Dues	532,494	482,622	458,288	456,081	492,324	368,631	805,821
Donations	240,508	288,594	281,015	180,630	453,272	148,383	678,854
Recurring Gifts	351,243	393,021	331,288	344,601	342,279	323,457	350,931
Board Solicitation Major Gifts	94,388	25,027	1,000	125	42,475	73,400	0
Convention Revenue	170,112	0	185,226	0	114,820	0	291,294
Project Program Revenue	5,000	130,035	-6,321	244,869	72,248	24,206	16,210
Brand & Promo Materials Rev	28,994	0	690	2,450	19,380	30,360	316,269
Ballot Access Donations	32,052	30,188	231,877	61,394	45,954	135,292	149,819
Publications Materials Other	24,427	7,900	1,645	1,000	7,959	13,967	15,186
Other Revenue & Offsets	2,871	1,523	142	23	1	55	607
Total Support and Revenue	1,482,088	1,358,911	1,484,850	1,291,173	1,590,712	1,117,751	2,624,990
Cost of Support and Revenue							
Fundraising Costs	126,335	147,122	165,265	116,485	125,461	101,756	200,931
Membership Fundraising Costs	121,165	155,965	76,355	101,056	108,366	95,903	129,798
Convention	102,896	0	161,912	0	120,936	0	218,607
Ballot Access Other Project Fundraising	4,283	2,937	16,825	25,589	8,831	22,828	5,830
Building Fundraising Exp	0	0	0	30,527	5,945	81	1,175
Total Cost of Support and Revenue	354,678	306,024	420,357	273,657	369,539	220,568	556,341
Net Support Available for Programs	1,127,410	1,052,887	1,064,493	1,017,516	1,221,173	897,183	2,068,650
Program Expense							
Administrative Costs	356,133	365,257	362,256	348,712	276,911	250,039	361,626
Compensation	375,988	412,239	399,518	466,240	526,069	411,146	489,582
Affiliate Support	0	3,867	4,816	5,404	4,883	18,737	45,026
Brand & Promo Materials Exp	51,879	5,191	2,748	2,408	12,578	40,796	368,331
Campus Outreach	60	0	0	1,000	0	732	0
Candidate, Campaign & Initiatives	25,048	50,000	4,464	0	289	6,804	36,948
Ballot Access Petitioning Related Exp	128,904	72,452	382,461	16,262	106,696	107,502	393,092
Litigation	0	12,882	23,259	5,904	11,047	1,839	6,841
Media	1,250	0	0	30	119	145	5,367
Member Communication and Materials	34,016	36,992	38,452	24,670	60,395	39,396	81,340
Outreach	8,392	21,285	4,315	6,979	6,098	4,541	6,169
Project Program Other	0	4,294	0	6,785	2,500	7,261	0
Total Program Expense	981,671	984,459	1,222,289	884,394	1,007,585	888,938	1,794,323
Net Operating Surplus (or Deficit)	145,739	68,427	-157,796	133,122	213,588	8,245	274,327

* Unaudited for 2016

New LNC committee seeks to preserve party history

In January, the Libertarian National Committee voted to approve the formation of an ad hoc Historical Preservation Committee, charged with preserving material created by the party over its history. Caryn Ann Harlos, Joe Buchman, Joe Dehn, Ed Fochler, and James Gholston currently serve on the committee.

Harlos, who serves as chair, was inspired to form the committee when she visited the Libertarian Party headquarters last year and saw the large quantity of historical and educational material, developed over decades, that is not being put into the hands of state affiliates and activists.

"There are so many wonderful and eager new Libertarians brought into the party by the Johnson campaign, but many of them are not aware of the depth of history and ideas that form our heritage."
—Caryn Ann Harlos

"There are so many wonderful and eager new Libertarians brought into the party by the Johnson campaign, but many of them are not aware of the depth of history and ideas that form our heritage," said Harlos. "I want to be sure that they have access to these resources, and to reignite the fire and enthusiasm of seasoned champions of liberty."

The scope of the committee includes creating an electronic archive of party records, and maintaining and administering the party's online collaborative encyclopedia of party history, LPedia.org, which has become stagnant and is being prepared for a re-launch.

Volunteers are being sought to assist the committee with tasks that include scanning, electronic organizing and indexing, and document management. To volunteer, contact Caryn Ann Harlos at Caryn.Ann.Harlos@LP.org. Donations are requested to help fund this project. To make a donation, visit the website at: TinyURL.com/donate-lp-history •

Ballot access update

by Carla Howell

Arkansas bill passed to move back deadline for nominating candidates

On March 1, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson signed House Bill no. 1532, moving the deadline for a newly qualified political party to choose its candidates from November of the year prior to a general election, to May of the election year.

For years, the deadline for choosing candidates for a newly qualified party had been in May, but in 2015 the state legislature moved the deadline to November of the year preceding the election. Despite the early deadline—the earliest in the nation—the Arkansas LP was still able to get 24 candidates on the ballot for the 2016 election.

In Sept. 2016, a U.S. District Court judge ruled that the November filing deadline was unconstitutional.

Ohio courts continue to deny LP ballot status

After the Ohio Supreme Court ruled 6–1 against the LP in *Fockler v. Husted*, which would put the LP on the ballot for 2018, the party asked for reconsideration. As of March 15, the court has not yet made a ruling.

Shenanigans that involved staffers for Gov. John Kasich knocked LPO's gubernatorial candidate off the ballot in 2014, ruining the party's chance to retain ballot status. Also that year, the legislature changed the rules to make it very difficult to regain party status by petition. As a result, the LPO placed Libertarian presidential nominee Gov. Gary Johnson on the ballot as an independent in 2016. He subsequently won 3.7 percent of the vote, exceeding the 3 percent threshold required for party recognition.

The state argues that, even though the five individuals whose names appeared on Johnson's petition are the same five who filed the lawsuit, Johnson's vote result doesn't qualify the LPO to be placed on the ballot.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer, the state's largest newspaper, sided with the Libertarians, citing Supreme Court Justice William O'Neill in his lone dissent. O'Neill wrote of the fact that Jon Husted, the Secretary of State and now a candidate for governor, refuses to put the LPO on the ballot be-

cause Johnson and Weld did not appear as Libertarians on the ballot.

"That is, at best, circular reasoning," O'Neill wrote. "It would not have been possible for Gary Johnson and Bill Weld to run as the candidates of the Libertarian Party as there was no such party recognized by the state of Ohio. Political parties have to start somewhere."

Meanwhile, because the party cannot count on the state's hostile lawmakers and courts for help, LPO, with assistance from the national LP, continues to petition for ballot access in 2018. Of the 54,965 signatures needed, 13,449 had been collected as of March 16.

Oklahoma senate passes key bill

On March 14, the Oklahoma senate passed S.B. 350 by 41 to 3. It changes how a party remains on the ballot, from polling 2.5 percent or more for the office at the top of the ballot (president or governor), to 2.5 percent or more for any statewide race, in either of the last two elections.

It is far easier to receive 2.5 percent of the vote for offices such as treasurer or agriculture commissioner than for governor or president.

Tennessee pursuing Libertarian labels on ballot

LP Tennessee has committed to obtaining the Libertarian ballot label for their candidates by working three simultaneous avenues to ballot access: a legal option, a lobbying route, and gathering volunteer signatures.

LPTN placed Gov. Johnson on the ballot as an independent in 2016, and he received 2.7 percent of the number of votes that had been cast in the last gubernatorial election. Based on this result, LPTN has officially asked the Tennessee Secretary of State to recognize the LP.

The party is also lobbying to get H.B. 662 and S.B. 770 through the legislature, which would cut to 5,000 (from 33,844) the number of petitioning signatures required to place Libertarian-labeled candidates on the ballot in 2018. If a Libertarian candidate for governor or U.S. Senate polls 2.5 percent that year, the LP will remain on the ballot through 2020.

In case neither of these efforts succeeds, LPTN has embarked on a signature drive, with an estimated 4,000 signatures in hand. •



Fill FEC vacancy with a Libertarian

The unexpected resignation of Ann Ravel from the Federal Election Commission (FEC) offers an ideal opportunity for President Trump to "drain the swamp" by appointing a Libertarian commissioner. And because he is considering filling the entire commission with new blood, he could appoint a Libertarian to any of its six seats.

The law requires that no more than three members of the commission come from the same political party. Presidents typically appoint members who are Democratic or Republican, or closely aligned with one of those two old parties.

But the country consists of more than just Republicans and Democrats. There are many millions of independent voters, and November's election saw 4.5 million voters casting their ballots for Libertarian candidate Gov. Gary Johnson. These voters also deserve representation on the FEC.

The LP is the nation's third-largest political party. Through its strength and popular support, it was able to overcome significant hurdles and place its presidential candidate on the ballot in all 50 states and D.C. It would be entirely reasonable and consistent with the law for President Trump to appoint a Libertarian.

Speculation has already begun as to which Libertarians could make President Trump's short list of prospective replacements. One obvious possibility is Richard Winger, the long-time publisher and editor of Ballot Access News, and nationally recognized expert on independent and alternative-party election issues. Winger would certainly bring a fresh and much-needed perspective to the FEC.

A more diverse FEC would likely curb the self-serving behavior of the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), which was brought to light recently when a U.S. district court judge ordered the FEC to adequately respond to a complaint that presented mounds of evidence of CPD's bias in setting criteria for inclusion in presidential debates.

Polls consistently show that a majority of Americans want alternative candidates included in the debates. Yet the FEC has allowed the CPD to exclude them in violation of the FEC's own regulations.

Adding a Libertarian to the FEC would begin the process of giving American voters real choice at the polls, so that they—rather than political insiders—will control the federal government's agenda. •

LP wins ruling in FEC donation limit challenge

Earlier this year, U.S. District Court Judge Beryl Howell ruled in favor of the Libertarian Party, saying that it has standing to challenge an FEC decision that forbids it from receiving the full amount of a bequest all at once. The case arose out of a \$235,575 bequest left to the party by supporter Joseph Shaber, who died in 2014. The LP filed the case, *Libertarian National Committee v. FEC*, 1:16cv-121, in Jan. 2016.

The FEC had asserted that the limit it places on individual donations to a political party (now at \$33,900 annually) should apply to bequests, thus allowing only amounts totaling under this limit to be distributed to the party yearly.

The FEC's rationale is based on the premise that an individual who makes a large donation may be able to unduly influence politicians, whom the party helps to elect, to grant the donor special favors.

It is particularly absurd to impose such a limit on a person who is deceased and therefore incapable of influence peddling.

The FEC argued that the party lacked standing because the law allows the party to receive the money all at once

if it abides by existing FEC rules, which allow individuals to donate larger amounts if they are placed in segregated bank accounts and used only for particular purposes.

The LNC countered that to allow spending only on specified purposes violates the First Amendment speech rights of the party and its supporters.

The judge sided with the LNC, denying the FEC's request for dismissal and allowing the case to proceed to the full U.S. Court of Appeals.

"It will be difficult for the FEC to show that there is any danger of corruption allowing a deceased individual to leave money to a party," said Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*. •

"It will be difficult for the FEC to show that there is any danger of corruption to allow a deceased individual to leave money to a party."

**—Richard Winger,
publisher of *Ballot Access News***

LP wins case against FEC, CPD

...continued from page 1

to notify respondents, failed to consider evidence, failed to articulate its legal analysis, and failed to engage in reasoned decision-making.

"The court is perplexed by the FEC's assertion that it needs additional time to review the Plaintiffs' submissions given its earlier representations to the court that it had already carefully analyzed this evidence before dismissing Plaintiffs' administrative complaints. Nevertheless, the court will grant the FEC's request for additional time."

April 3 is the new deadline for the FEC to reconsider the plaintiffs' allegations against the CPD.

On March 8, the FEC announced in a press release that it voted on Feb. 22 not to appeal the District Court's ruling.

For decades, the CPD has managed to keep independent and third-party candidates out of the final, televised, general election debates. Their rule for inclusion requires average support of 15 percent in five polls, of the CPD's choosing, taken just a few weeks before the first debate.

Over the past several years, LPF and other groups have asked the CPD to change its rules. The CPD has refused.

LPF asked the FEC to enforce the law and issue a new rule-making on presidential debates. The FEC, reflexively defending the CPD's actions as it has done for decades, merely batted away LPF's complaints.

Although the FEC is plaintiff in this lawsuit, the CPD is the real target.

In its lawsuit, LPF provided copious evidence regarding political contributions and other partisan activities by CPD directors, including its current co-chair Frank Fahrenkopf (formerly chairman of the Republican National Committee), and recent co-chair Mike McCurry, a Democratic stalwart who served as press secretary to Bill Clinton.

Cara McCormick, CEO of LPF, said, "The federal court decision should embarrass not just Fahrenkopf and Mc-

Curry, but other members of the board, including former Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif), former Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), and former PBS anchor Jim Lehrer."

Recently, the CPD has seen the resignations of former Gov. Mitch Daniels, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, former Princeton University president Shirley Tilghman, and former CBS anchor Bob Schieffer.

"They may have been smart to jump ship, but they are not serving the public interest by remaining silent," said McCormick.

Those frustrated with the two-party domination of America's election process finally have something to cheer about, thanks to a federal judge's ruling against the FEC. Reformers hope this decision could result in the next presidential debate stage being more crowded—and more independent—than it has been since the 1990s.

For a commission whose mission is to stage public debates, the CPD is suspiciously secretive. When the CPD decided to keep its 15 percent rule for the 2016 debates, its press release implied that the vote was not unanimous, but the reasons for dissent were not revealed.

Judge Chutkan's ruling was covered by Real Clear Politics, Vice, Court House News, The Hill Talk, PR Newswire, and IVN, which together portrayed the ruling as an opening for a new kind of election in 2020.

Reporter Melissa Cruz wrote in RealClearPolitics, "Except for 2008, the Commission on Presidential De-

Spotlight on Liberty Pledgers Libertarian voices in Tulsa: Joe and Airyn Cristiano

The Libertarian Party (LP) has grown over the years because of devoted members such as Joe and Airyn Cristiano of Tulsa, Okla., who have been generous with their time, talents, and financial resources.

Joe and Airyn joined the Libertarian Party as members in 1996, and now they contribute monthly as Liberty Pledgers. Airyn says the reason she gives monthly is that she supports Libertarian ideas. Joe added, "I like to put

continued on page 15...



Airyn and Joe Cristiano

bates has been sued in every presidential cycle since it was formed in 1987. Those court challenges, usually centering on opening the process to more candidates, have never gotten anywhere—until now. Those frustrated with the two-party domination of America's election process finally have something to cheer about, thanks to a federal judge's ruling against the Federal Election Commission. Reformers hope this decision could result in the next presidential debate stage being more crowded—and more independent—than it has been since the 1990s."

Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark said, "For decades, the CPD has operated in a manner designed to support and perpetuate the two old parties and protect them from any political competition. And for decades, the FEC has been complicit by willfully ignoring the evidence that the CPD is running an illegal bipartisan campaign commercial. We hope that this ruling will get the FEC to start following and enforcing the law fairly."

"Kudos to Alexandra Shapiro for her skillful presentation of the law and the overwhelming evidence that the CPD is violating the FEC's rules," he said. "And bravo to Judge Chutkan for seeing the FEC's ignoring of that law and evidence for what it was, and ordering them to go back and do their job." •

Parts of this article were provided by Level the Playing Field.

Libertarian Party pioneers give advice for moving forward

In 2016, the LP reached new heights in media coverage, membership numbers, and vote totals, but these were not reaped without many years of continued sowing and cultivation by past leaders and activists like Ed Clark—who ran for President on the Libertarian ticket in 1980—and his wife, Alicia Clark, who in 1981, was the second woman to be elected LNC Chair.

Ed was first introduced to Libertarianism while seeking an alternative to the Republican Party after Richard Nixon moved the country away from a gold standard and imposed wage and price controls. He learned of the Libertarian Party (LP) through early libertarian magazines, and friends in New York. Alicia, born in Vera Cruz, Mexico, had never belonged to any American political party other than the Libertarian Party.

Ed's long list of role models within the LP includes David Nolan, its cofounder, John Hospers, the party's first presidential nominee, and Roger MacBride, its second.

Alicia finds inspiration in each candidate who has run for public office as a Libertarian, and for their dedication to the LP, looks to them as role models.

The Clarks are optimistic about the future of the LP because of the attention received in 2016. Alicia noted that

"We have made progress on an intellectual front. In this last election we made a big advancement on the political front. We have to keep on pressing and realize it is a difficult task that will take a long time." —Ed Clark



Alicia and Ed Clark

she gave out many of her personal books on libertarianism last year, as many of her friends were seeking an alternative to the two-party system.

When asked for his advice to Libertarian leaders, Ed commented, "We have made progress on an intellectual front. In this last election, we made a big advancement on the political front. We have to keep on pressing and realize it is a difficult task that will take a long time."

The Clarks supported the Johnson-Weld 2016 cam-

paign, and Ed provided an early endorsement to Gov. Gary Johnson. Alicia was especially delighted with the media coverage of the campaign and with the membership growth of the LP.

She advises, "What everyone has to do is to welcome new members, let them feel at home, and to have a lot of lectures and talks about what the Libertarian Party is really all about."

Ed added that new Libertarians should "get active in the party, find something of the party's activities that they enjoy doing."

Ed has mixed feelings about President Trump's impact on the economy. His greatest concern is an increase in the national deficit, but feels there is a possibility for deregulation.

"This is a time when many people are not very optimistic," he said. "I think the Libertarian movement is very substantial and will probably enlarge more under the Trump regime and the Trump regime will disappear in four years. We have to be patient."

"I think the Libertarian movement is very substantial and will probably enlarge more under the Trump regime."
—Ed Clark

Alicia agreed with Ed's prediction that Libertarians will ascend to the next level.

"I would like to encourage all Libertarians to be patient, to be persistent, and to be consistent," she said.

Mom: With me, liberty sticks

It seems like the first words uttered into my ears after exiting the womb were, "express yourself." From professors to parents, I was taught to be outspoken.

I heard hours upon hours of my family's views, ranging from social services to senatorial privileges, all spoken over the low hum of Fox News.

This conservative environment I was raised in led me to take great interest in government. In my senior year of high school, I signed up for AP Government.

Our first project was to research different political parties throughout America. When I came across the Libertarian Party in Wikipedia, I read it in admiration and awe.

How had I gone my 17 long years without discovering a party that so greatly aligned with my views?

With a renewed faith in American politics, I was reborn as a Libertarian. Clearly, my next step was to sign up for the mailing list.

You could only imagine the ecstasy and excitement I felt when I opened my first letter from the Libertarian Party and saw, to my great surprise, a free bumper sticker!

I wasted no time in slapping my greatest mail-order trophy onto my Honda Accord. However, my mother was not as thrilled as I. Without my knowledge, she ripped my sticker off and threw it out. I was furious.

When I confronted her about her hypocritical conduct, all she said was, "I don't want people thinking we are crazy."

My mother said this. The woman who wore her political views on her sleeve. The



Letters

woman who, again and again, urged me to find my own views and believe in them. Her calm and collected comeback shocked me and led me to learn a harsh, yet valuable, lesson.

Adults always tell us to get involved, but when we involve the bumper of our cars, have we gone too far?

We must respect the opinions of the youth, if we want the future of America to be bright.

To conclude with a happy ending, I got another bumper sticker. It is safely and permanently displayed on my laptop.

—Lillian Whittaker,

East Lyme High School; Salem, Conn.

"All politics is..."
...social!

Have you been to the LP Facebook page lately?



Facebook.com/libertarians

AFFILIATE

Updates

Affiliate news and events are provided to *LP News* by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Alabama

2017 Executive Committee elected

The Libertarian Party of Alabama elected Joshua Tuttle as chairman at its 2017 convention on Sat., Feb. 25 in Huntsville. Chairman Tuttle was elected after a close race against Baldwin County Affiliate Chair Laura Lane.

The convention brought together Libertarian Party members from all over the state. Chairman Josh Tuttle made the following statement regarding the convention:

"I am deeply humbled to have earned the trust of the party members as chairman of the Libertarian Party of Alabama. Our focus will be to carry the torch of liberty and contest the old parties in upcoming elections."

The Libertarian Party of Alabama 2017 executive committee members are:

Joshua Tuttle, Chairman
C.J. Ezell, Vice Chairman
Nicole Jordan, Secretary
Ross Lowe, Treasurer
Noah Rhys, Region 1 Representative
Aaron Watkins, Region 2 Representative
Gage Fenwick, Region 3 Representative
Zackary Redmond, Region 4 Representative
Anthony Peebles, At-Large Member
Jim Albea, At-Large Member

California

Convention April 28–30 in Santa Clara

The annual convention of the Libertarian Party of California is coming up on April 28–30 at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, 2700 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054 (near San Jose International Airport). This should be the gala event of the season, with great speakers, tasty meals, party business, and camaraderie with freedom-loving individuals from throughout California. For more information and to register: Ca.LP.org/convention-2017

There is a special election in the 34th Congressional District on April 4, and we have a great candidate named Angela McArdle, who is already making waves in the race. Check out her web site at: An-

gelaMcArdleForCongress.com

The Southern California Regional Conference was held on Feb. 25 in Santa Fe Springs (Los Angeles County). This was a very successful event featuring LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark as guest speaker. Over 75 people attended, quite a few of whom reporting that it was their first Libertarian event ever.

Colorado

Legalizing "ballot selfies"

A win for political free speech may be on the horizon, with the Colorado legislature taking up a bill that would remove taking "ballot selfies" from potential criminal prosecutions after civil rights suits were filed by Libertarian Party of Colorado (LPCO) Communications Director Caryn Ann Harlos and several other plaintiffs, including a Colorado Springs senator.

At press time, the LPCO was hard at work preparing for its three-day annual convention, being held on March 24–26 in Westminster, with plans to feature speakers such as Sen. Laura Ebke, Austin Petersen, Arvin Vohra, Steve Kerbel, Apollo Pazzel, David K. Williams, Ron Gowins, Sarah Stewart, Corey Falconier, Marc Montoni, and Caryn Ann Harlos, and a panel discussion on alternative voting methods such as approval voting and ranked-choice voting.

Iowa

Political party status granted

After submitting an application, the Libertarian Party of Iowa was granted political party status on March 1, 2017. The Libertarian Party of Iowa earned the ability to apply for political party status when the Johnson–Weld ticket received 3.8 percent of the vote. LP Iowa will maintain party status if its gubernatorial or presidential candidate continue to receive more than 2 percent of the vote.

"Political party" status is a legal definition established by Iowa Code which allows the party certain privileges, including the ability to participate in the primary election. Iowa voters registered with the Libertarian Party will be able to participate in the 2018 primaries for the first time!

Libertarian Party state chair, Keith



LP Colorado Vice Chair Wayne Harlos, for his state convention

Laube, stated, "Being part of the primary election will be a big game-changer. Our candidates will know they are on the November ballot in early June, rather than late August. This will help organize stronger campaigns and provide voters more opportunities to understand Libertarian views."

Iowa starts early voting in late September, 40 days before the November election day.

Iowa voters could start registering Libertarian in 2008. Today the number of registered Libertarians in Iowa is almost 10,000.

Kansas

Special election for U.S. House, April 11

With Mike Pompeo having resigned his position as U.S. Representative from the 4th District in Kansas to accept the post of CIA Director in the Trump administration, Governor Brownback has set April 11 as the date for the special election to fill the vacancy. Libertarians from the 4th District met on Feb. 11 in Wichita to select a candidate. Receiving 85 percent of the vote, Chris Rockhold was nominated to represent the LPKS. Gordon Bakken and John Kostner also sought the nomination. Chris is a flight-simulator instructor and long-time Libertarian. Chris's campaign manager is Jordan Husted. The convention was well attended by the media.

February 7 marked the first meeting of a campus group of young Libertarians at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Two new countywide Libertarian groups had their initial meetings in January. Reno County Libertarians (Hutchinson), led by Kerry Burt, and Butler County Libertarians (Butler), led by Robert Mulheran, both met for the first time on Jan. 28.

A legislative hearing to repeal the death penalty in Kansas was held on Feb. 13. Long-time death penalty opponent and former LPKS Chair Al Terwelp submitted written testimony in favor of the bill on behalf of the LPKS. Unfortunately, the bill was tabled for the rest of the session.

State Representative Gail Finney was the guest of Libertarians of Northeast Kansas (Topeka) at their March 7 meeting. She discussed a bill she introduced which would require conviction of a crime before asset forfeiture could take place.

The LPKS state convention will be held on the weekend of April 22 at the Ramada Overland Park, 7240 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Overland Park.

Kentucky

Convention rescheduled for June 23–25

2017 is an important year for the Libertarian Party of Kentucky (LPKY). In February, it was announced that the 2017

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state convention would be held later than in previous years. This was intended to allow the committees and membership time to prepare for the issues that need to be dealt with, to meet certain important challenges and exciting opportunities in the coming years. However, following that announcement, many members reached out to express concerns about the convention being held later in the year than usual. After careful consideration and much discussion, the decision has been made to change the convention date.

The new dates for the convention are June 23–25, 2017.

Additionally, we will hold a special convention on August 5, focusing on rules and constitutional changes that need to be made. Holding this special convention separately will help alleviate time constraints for rules issues at the main convention.

While the date is now set, the venue is still to be determined. Local and district affiliates' proposals of convention locations are welcome. As of press time, only two proposals have been submitted. Help to make this the best LPKY convention yet. Please send proposals, including room rates and venue details, to state chairman David Capano, at Dave.Capano@LPKY.org.

Montana

Special election for U.S. House May 25

The Montana Libertarian Party (MTLP) held a special convention on March 11 to choose a candidate for their U.S. house seat. A special election is being held on May 25, as the outgoing congressman was appointed Secretary of the Interior by the Trump administration. After three hours of hearing from and asking questions of possible candidates, the delegates chose Mark Wicks of Inverness to be the Libertarian nominee.

The MTLP's ability to nominate a candidate had been threatened. The Montana governor had set the election date to the earliest possible date under the law, and the Secretary of State (SOS) set an early filing date—in violation of the law—which fell before MTLP's scheduled convention. MTLP pushed back on the SOS and prevailed, forcing the SOS to postpone the filing date, which allowed MTLP to nominate its

candidate at its scheduled convention.

It is a great time to be a Libertarian in the state of Montana. Much is happening and people are excited. The Montana Libertarians are beginning to pick up good press coverage, and their candidate will be included in debates. Television, radio, and newspaper interviews have been done, and more are being scheduled.

Nevada

New leaders elected

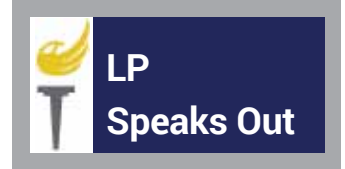
Familiar faces and some welcome re-turning leaders fill the Nevada LP's executive committee. Most notably, Debra Debmon (the original Libertarian Girl) and Lou Pombo return to leadership roles on the excom. Tim Hagan remains the longest-serving Libertarian on the executive committee, with his attention to detail and impeccable execution of the treasurer duties and his leadership on the Libertarian message. Jason Weinman remains active as well, and David Colborne has recruited enough new Libertarians "up north" that he can pass the Northern Rep position on, and assume his new role as vice chairman. Jason Smith, former two-term vice chairman, is now the chairman, bringing his business organizational skills to a team of skilled and motivated leaders. The first order of business: organize and build county affiliates.

On March 5, Clark County LP held their convention and elected their new executive committee, with former Nevada LP excom member Steve Brown, who has run two campaigns for Congress, winning the chairmanship. Steve and his new team will be building the LP from the Southern Nevada affiliate with an outreach to businesses as well as being an active and vocal attendee to County Commission meetings and meetings at City Hall. There is a lot to do, and Chairman Brown stated right after his election that he is ready now to start building the party and getting results.

Meanwhile, in northern Nevada, LP Nevada is building on our successes in 2016. In November, the Washoe County Libertarian Party was formally affiliated, solidifying the organizational gains established from the Gary Johnson for President 2016 campaign. Shepherded by Chairman April Nieto, the Washoe County Libertarian Party is hold-

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Trump speech misses mark on key policy



LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark released the following statement in response to President Donald Trump's Feb. 28 address to Congress:

In his speech before congress, President Donald Trump offered a mix of good and bad policy proposals. In the "good" category, Trump:

- proposed cutting the regulatory might of the FDA so as to cut the development time for drugs and to drive down prices. This will save lives, reduce human suffering, and save many billions of American dollars;
- implied he would end the Obamacare mandate to buy insurance. This would remove a huge burden from those who don't want or can't afford today's vastly overpriced plans;
- proposed allowing the purchase of medical insurance plans across state lines. This will reduce premiums and cut away at egregious state insurance regulations that drive up costs;
- suggested his plan to force the F35 fighter jet to compete with a Boeing F18 will cut spending, which it likely would. The F35 is perhaps the military's most overpriced and ineffective equipment purchase in its wasteful history;
- proposed cutting the corporate income tax, which would create jobs and reduce consumer prices.

In the "bad" category, Trump proposed a number of new or expanded Big Government programs, including:

- more retaliatory tariffs on imports, which will drive up prices for American consumers and kill American jobs. He erroneously believes that "trade deficits" are a problem. They actually represent a deficit of dollars in exchange for a surplus of goods—which balance each other out. This is why it's called "trade";
- the largest increase in military spending ever—a department that's already full of waste and so poorly managed that it is incapable of being audited;
- \$1 trillion in new spending on "infrastructure"—a redux of Obama's wasteful TARP program. Highways should be funded locally. Federal interference drives up the cost and creates tremendous waste;
- new spending on: a women's entrepreneurship program, drug treatment, women's healthcare, and child care. These programs drive up taxes and kill jobs. They should be left to the productive, low-cost private sector;
- forcing employers to fund paid family leave. This will kill jobs and harm small businesses;
- VOICE program aimed at painting immigrants as criminals, when in fact they are at least as peaceful as the average citizen;
- stepped-up border patrols, which will block productive workers from providing needed labor at a low cost to American individuals and businesses;
- a wall along the border with Mexico, which will waste money and harm relations with our neighbor, while failing to stop entry by those who impose a threat;
- "demolishing ISIS," suggesting he will sustain U.S. meddling in the Middle East. This will help ISIS recruit terrorists and destroy more property and human life.

Trump talks big about small cuts in government spending to distract from his proposed massive increase in overall spending. We need the opposite: to dramatically downsize major federal programs as well as programs across the board, to balance the budget, and to reduce total taxation. So long as lawmakers refuse to cut the overall size of government, they will continue to kill American jobs, create dangerous levels of government debt, inflate the dollar, deplete American wealth, and leave millions of people financially insecure.

Libertarians call on President Trump and Congress to focus on cutting the overall size, scope, and authority of government so that the economy flourishes and Americans are healthy, safe, gainfully employed, and financially secure.

With respect to Trump's specific proposals, Libertarians wish him every success in implementing his better ones, and every failure in implementing his bad ones. •

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ing two recurring social events each month, on the third Wednesday in Sparks, followed by their third-Tuesday event in Reno. Additionally, they are planning an Easter food drive for veterans.

In Carson City, Wendy Stolyarov is actively lobbying on our behalf in the legislature. Her efforts have already been noted by Riley Snyder, reporter for the *Nevada Independent*, as well as by the Nevada Forward and the Nevada Transgender Allies Group. Additionally, Carson City's first recurring social event will be taking place at the end of the month.

of alcoholic products. They'll be creating a special T-shirt and distributing information on the issue at local pubs, bars, and restaurants.

Current law requires any brewery producing more than 25,000 barrels per year to use the services of large, established distributors, which then gain total control over where craft beers may be sold. They use the power of government to give them a cut of a business they didn't help build.

While 25,000 barrels sounds like a lot of beer, it isn't. At least three local breweries are now producing near this cap.

"We can't allow special interests and big



Graphic the LPNC created to promote the LP while campaigning for initiative to fight government-granted monopolies

North Carolina

The right to grow a business

David Ulmer, 2016 Libertarian candidate for state house District 49, is spearheading a promotional campaign by the Wake County LP to support Craft Freedom, an initiative to fight government-granted monopolies on the transportation

beer industry players based in places like Belgium to keep our local N.C. beer industry from growing," Ulmer said. "These successful local businesses have to decide whether to keep growing—and hand over 30 percent of their revenue to someone else—or remain small. There's simply no reason the law should lock craft breweries into relationships with distributors." •

**Thinking of running for office?
It's not too early to plan your 2018 run.**

Visit: LP.org/run-for-office

and send us your inquiry. You'll receive, from your state LP affiliate or national LP headquarters, information you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state's election laws, and get on the ballot.

Announcing the 2018 Libertarian National Convention theme contest winner:

I'M THAT LIBERTARIAN!

LP members and donors helped the Libertarian National Committee pick a theme for the 2018 National Libertarian Convention to be held in New Orleans, La. from June 30 to July 3, 2018. (Save the date.)

Members submitted over 400 suggestions to the Convention Oversight Committee in response to an appeal by LNC Executive Director Wes Benedict. The committee then narrowed the list of themes down to 16. A contest was held, allowing members to vote with their dollars for their favorite theme.

The contest was conducted in two rounds. The first round, which ran through March 14, whittled the list down to five semi-finalists. The final round, ending on March 21, determined the winning theme, "I'm That Libertarian."

This theme pays tribute to the highly entertaining closing statement delivered by the late Dr. Marc Allan Feldman, a candidate for the 2016 Libertarian presidential nomination, at the Libertarian National Convention last May.

The contest raised a total of \$15,395, which will be used to cover early convention expenses. Here's a breakdown of the themes and the dollars donated:

\$6,222	I'M THAT LIBERTARIAN!	\$75	Free Lives Matter
\$5,200	Building Bridges, Not Walls	\$42	Be Me, Be Free
\$1,620	Pro-Choice on Everything	\$18	Make Taxation Theft Again
\$1,377	Empowering the Individual	\$15	Jazzed About Liberty
\$395	The Power of Principle	\$15	All of Your Freedoms, All of the Time
\$150	Future of Freedom	\$15	Taxation is Theft
\$115	Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness	\$5	Liberty Here and Now
\$105	Rise of the Libertarians	\$5	Am I Being Detained!

Thanks to all those who contributed ideas and funds. •

Spotlight on supporters

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my money where my mouth is.... I do it because it's the right thing to do."

The Cristianos attribute their initial interest in the LP, where Joe says they "found like-minded people," to the influence of two good friends. Joe enjoys reading pro-liberty works, both old and new, and appreciates the timelessness of liberty that they demonstrate.

Years ago, Joe hosted a talk show on 1170 Tulsa KFAQ AM, but left to start a recording studio in his home when he decided the station was too conservative. He spent his own funds to form Liberty Talk Radio, fo-

cused on how ordinary people are affected by economics and global finance. He's had many noteworthy LP leaders on his show, including Carla Howell, LNC Political Director, and LNC members Dr. James Lark and Bill Redpath. "The radio show has been an amazing experience," said Airyn.

In their free time, Joe and Airyn enjoy long-distance bike rides and overnight camping. They also volunteer to foster dogs through the Animal Rescue Foundation in Tulsa.

Thanks to Joe and Airyn for their continued support of the LP. •

Check out Liberty Talk Radio at: LibertyTalkRadio.com

If you'd like to join the Cristianos as a Liberty Pledger, visit:

LP.org/donate

Under "donation type," select "monthly donation."
Or just e-mail Jess Mears at Jess.Mears@LP.org.

As a Liberty Pledger, you will receive a special monthly newsletter, along with your subscription to *LP News*.

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Restrictions apply.

2017 Libertarian Party conventions

Help build on the LP's 2016 growth!
Be a delegate at your state convention.

Jan. 20–21:	Arizona	April 21–23:	Washington, Wisconsin
Jan. 21:	Nevada	April 22–23:	Kansas, Utah
Feb. 4:	Michigan: special bylaws convention	April 28–30:	California
Feb. 19:	Montana	April 29:	Maryland, Minnesota, New York
Feb. 25:	Alabama	May 5–7:	Florida, Indiana, Ohio
March 11:	Connecticut, New Jersey, Tennessee	May 6:	Alaska, West Virginia
March 18:	New Hampshire	June 23–25:	Kentucky (special rules convention also on Aug. 5)
March 24–25:	Iowa	Aug. 11–13:	North Carolina
March 24–26:	Colorado	Oct. 14:	Massachusetts
March 25:	Delaware, Georgia	Oct. 20–22:	Nebraska
April 2:	Pennsylvania	Nov. 4:	South Carolina
April 7–8:	Illinois		
April 8:	Arkansas, Mississippi, New Mexico		

For updates and newly scheduled conventions, visit: LP.org/2017-state-conventions

LP HI fights for decrim.

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Opponents have asserted that the bill will allow police officers to have sex with prostitutes and then arrest them. But the bill removes this prohibition only because it would be moot, owing to the fact that police would no longer have arrest powers.

Opponents also claim that the bill legalizes the abuse of women by pimps. But the law that makes it a felony to abuse sex workers is not affected at all by the proposed legislation.

Voters have been convinced of these false perceptions, so any chance that the bill will pass this year has disappeared. However, it will remain in the judiciary committee as a carry-over to the 2018 session, when it could get a fair hearing.



“These people object on moral principles that are not subject to change based on reason, logic, or evidence,” said Ryan. “It will be up to the larger Hawaii community to stand up in support of this bill and provide the political push for passage into law.” •

Decrim Hawaii website:
DecrimHawaii.wordpress.com

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- LP to GOP lawmakers: End Obamacare’s individual mandate now
- Fox News: LNC chair knocks Trump support of “immoral” asset forfeiture
- Libertarians praise house bill to end Dept. of Education
- LNC chair interviewed on IVN News podcast, “A Civil Assessment”
- LNC regional rep Caryn Ann Harlos on the Tom Woods podcast
- The Libertarian Party opposes restrictions on peaceful immigration
- WBRE TV/NBC and WNEP TV report on Libertarian v. Scranton lawsuit

The Libertarian Party continues to bask in a historic election year, gaining party status and ballot access in more states in 2016. The general platform of fiscal conservatism and social liberalism/tolerance/openness is striking a chord with many voters looking for alternatives outside the two-party political structure.

—IVN, 2/28

While still not a viable electoral force, the 2016 presidential election marked the Libertarian Party’s most successful presidential run to date and the most successful third-party candidacy since Ross Perot in 1996.

—People’s Pundit Daily, 3/7

The grave fear among libertarians is that Trump’s actions will represent the very worst of his campaign promises — intervening militarily, adding to the debt, abandoning trade, restricting civil liberties

—Politico Magazine, March–April 2017

There are reasons why libertarianism should matter even to non-libertarians. The ideology’s adherents help to keep both conservatives and progressives honest—and from becoming intellectually complacent. They are exquisitely sensitive to government abuses: libertarians are an early-warning system for tyranny. They serve as a kind of conscience, too, in reminding the left and the right, as they embark on... programs of government-directed social change, that there are costs even to pursuing well-meaning policies, and that some powers are too great to be entrusted even to good men in the name of a noble cause. Government can be an instrument of self-righteous arrogance; libertarians of all kinds, by the nature of their ideology, supply a balancing virtue of humility.

—The American Conservative, 2/22

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